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April 19, 2002

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: *Ex parte* presentation in CC Docket Nos. 96-45 and 00-256

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Today I made an *ex parte* presentation to Jordan Goldstein, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Copps, concerning the pending Petition for Reconsideration of the National Telephone Cooperative Association in the above-referenced proceedings. The attached briefing sheet was distributed during the meeting.

In the meeting, I noted that high-cost support for rural carriers has declined in 2002 because Section 36.603(a) of the Commission's rules requires support to be based on support for calendar year 2001. CenturyTel urges that the Commission revise its rules such that high-cost support for 2002 is based on support distributed in the second half of 2001 (annualized).

Pursuant to the Commission's rules, I am filing a copy of this letter and attachment electronically for inclusion in the record of each of the above-referenced proceedings. Please contact me at (202) 637-2262 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Brinkmann

Enclosure